

Lost Dutchman State Park Hike to the Siphon Draw

Hike Description

On this moderate hike, hikers start in a State Park, travel into the Tonto National Forest, then into the Superstition Wilderness in less than 2 miles! If you are ready for a challenge and opportunity for some cardio exercise, then this is the hike for you. From the Siphon Draw Trailhead in Lost Dutchman State Park, hikers follow Siphon Draw Trail #53, a wide, rocky trail that becomes steeper as it climbs toward the draw - a basin - slick rock chute. The hike starts as a nature walk, but quickly changes to a steep hike where you will want to watch your footing on the rocky trail. Stopping and glancing back at the trail covered offers many views of further west to the high-rise buildings of central Phoenix on clear days. Once hikers reach the slick rock area, rest, eat the snacks packed, take photos, rest hamstring muscles, they will turn around, slide down the slick rock if they feel uncertain of slick rock footing, then start exercising quad muscles for the downward hike. Approximate hiking time 3+ hours.

The Route and Distance

The hike begins in Lost Dutchman State Park, following the signage to Siphon Draw trailhead parking area, hike 0.5 mi on Discovery Trail, then turn south towards the Superstition Mts and follow the Siphon Draw trail markings for 1.4 miles to the slick rock, basin area, and return using same route, less than 4 miles.

The Elevation

2080' at Lost Dutchman State Park
3100' to Siphon Draw - Basin

History and Facts

Siphon Draw is a drainage channel (a "draw") leading down a steep canyon in the vertical western face of the Superstition Mountains. During winter rains or summer monsoon season, the rains fall down the inner walls of the canyons, and converge into the single main channel of the draw - a 200 yard sluice of rock plunging at a 45° angle. Over the centuries the water has polished the basin almost completely smooth. The draw makes for good traction going up, but extra care needs to be taken on the return trip down. Some hikers feel more comfortable to sit and slide with control rather than walking down the slick rock!

This hike is considered a moderate hike and hikers should be prepared with proper hiking shoes for a rocky trail, water for a 4 mile, 3+ hour hike, and a hiking stick if they prefer hiking with same.